

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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October 25, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

We are writing today regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) decision to bar many television transactions during the pendency of the broadcast incentive auction. Specifically, we are concerned about the possible unintended impacts the moratorium could have in diversity in broadcast ownership. Despite constituting 14% of the total population, African-Americans own approximately 2% of all commercial broadcast licenses in the United States. Additionally, African-Americans face ongoing challenges in accessing private sector funding to fully participate in media ownership.

Bayou City Broadcasting (BCB) is the only African-American broadcaster in the United States to own, operate and manage every aspect of its television stations. The company's success represents tangible progress towards increasing minority ownership in media. BCB is currently in the process of acquiring Fox and NBC affiliates through the divestiture provisions of the Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Inc. and Media General, Inc. merger. With the uncertain timing of the end of the incentive auction, however, it is difficult to determine when this deal may ultimately close.

With this in mind, we strongly urge the Commission give full consideration to the request being filed by Nexstar Broadcasting Group and Media General, Inc. seeking a limited waiver of the auction rules allowing them to close their merger and related transactions prior to the completion of the incentive auction. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future to pursue our shared goals of increasing diversity in broadcasting.

Sincerely,



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

December 14, 2016

The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond
U.S. House of Representatives
240 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Richmond:

Thank you for your letter regarding Bayou City Broadcasting's proposed acquisition of Fox and NBC affiliates through the divestiture provisions of the Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Inc. and Media General, Inc. merger. I appreciate hearing your views.

Consistent with our rules, the Commission will evaluate whether these proposed transactions are in the public interest. Our analysis on any transaction is always robust and takes several factors into account, including the issues you raise in your letter. Not only do we assess whether we can appropriately remedy any harms that may arise from the transaction, we also place great emphasis on the benefits that the transaction will confer on American consumers. While I am unable to discuss the merits of this particular proceeding, I can assure you that the Commission is conducting an open and transparent process as required by FCC rules and regulations. After developing a full and complete record, we hope to conclude our review as quickly as possible.

Again, thank you for your interest in this matter. Your letter will be made part of the official record of the proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 14, 2016

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

Thank you for your letter regarding Bayou City Broadcasting's proposed acquisition of Fox and NBC affiliates through the divestiture provisions of the Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Inc. and Media General, Inc. merger. I appreciate hearing your views.

Consistent with our rules, the Commission will evaluate whether these proposed transactions are in the public interest. Our analysis on any transaction is always robust and takes several factors into account, including the issues you raise in your letter. Not only do we assess whether we can appropriately remedy any harms that may arise from the transaction, we also place great emphasis on the benefits that the transaction will confer on American consumers. While I am unable to discuss the merits of this particular proceeding, I can assure you that the Commission is conducting an open and transparent process as required by FCC rules and regulations. After developing a full and complete record, we hope to conclude our review as quickly as possible.

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 14, 2016

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter regarding Bayou City Broadcasting's proposed acquisition of Fox and NBC affiliates through the divestiture provisions of the Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Inc. and Media General, Inc. merger. I appreciate hearing your views.

Consistent with our rules, the Commission will evaluate whether these proposed transactions are in the public interest. Our analysis on any transaction is always robust and takes several factors into account, including the issues you raise in your letter. Not only do we assess whether we can appropriately remedy any harms that may arise from the transaction, we also place great emphasis on the benefits that the transaction will confer on American consumers. While I am unable to discuss the merits of this particular proceeding, I can assure you that the Commission is conducting an open and transparent process as required by FCC rules and regulations. After developing a full and complete record, we hope to conclude our review as quickly as possible.

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Tom Wheeler